

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are currently pending, of which claim 1 is independent. Claims 1-9 and 11-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Applicants amend claim 1 and cancel claim 10 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants add new claims 14-17.

I. Claims 1-9 and 11-13

Applicants thank the Examiner for recognizing that claim 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. (Office Action at page 3). Applicants therefore amend claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 10.

In light of the aforementioned amendment to claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable. In particular, the Prior Art of Record does not disclose “wherein said powder compact is in a planar or columnar shape.” (Office Action at page 3).

Claims 2-9 and 11-13 depend from claim 1 and, as such, include each and every element of claim 1. Therefore, claims 2-9 and 11-13 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claims 1-9 and 11-13.

II. New Claims 14-17

Applicants add new claims 14-17, each of which depends from claim 1. Claims 14-17 are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Further, claims 14-17 each recite patentable subject matter not disclosed in the Prior Art of Record.

Support for new claim 14 can be found in the Specification on page 11, paragraph [0042], lines 9-11; page 12, lines 4-5; and in Figures 3(a) through 3(c).

Support for new claim 15 can be found in the Specification on page on page 9, paragraph [0035], lines 23-24 and in Figure 1.

Support for new claim 16 can be found in the Specification on page 11, paragraph [0043], line 26 through page 12, paragraph [0043], line 2; page 12, paragraph [0044], lines 6-9; page 12, paragraph [0045]; and in Figure 4.

Support for new claim 17 can be found in the Specification on page 12, paragraph [0046], line 23 through page 13, paragraph [0047], line 13; page 13, paragraph [0048]; and in Figure 6.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner deems that issues persist, the Examiner is urged to call Applicants' attorney at the phone number below.

Dated: April 2, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

Electronic signature: /Anthony A. Laurentano/
Anthony A. Laurentano
Registration No.: 38,220
LAHIVE & COCKFIELD, LLP
One Post Office Square
Boston, Massachusetts 02109-2127
(617) 227-7400
(617) 742-4214 (Fax)
Attorney/Agent For Applicant